towers. Assimilation of such vast amount of data into operational numerical weather prediction models is an important steps to improve the prediction of monsoons and aderse extreme weather events. Better understanding of the atmospheric processes will also help the disaster mitigation acivities for events such as cyclone, drought, and cloudbursts with timely early warning.

Manned mission to moon

3939. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to send a satellite to the moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also included sending a man to the moon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Chandrayaan-1 is India's first unmanned mission to moon with scientific objective of high resolution mapping of topographic features and the study of the mineralogical composition of the lunar surface. The spacecraft will orbit moon at an altitude of 100 km to be launched in 2008 using PSLV. The mission is expected to have an operational life of about 2 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The technologies related to manned mission are yet to be developed.

Indian mission to moon

3940. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first Indian moon mission Chandrayaan-1 was approved in 2003;